Application No. 09/684,053
Amendment "B" dated November 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed July 16, 2004

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview held with the Examiner.

The latest Office Action, mailed July 16, 2004, considered claims 1-14 and 16-25. Claims 1-4, 6, 10-14, 16-18, 20 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barrett (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,876). Claims 5 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett further in view of Fox (U.S. Patent No. 6,657,786). Claims 7-9 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett, as applied to claims 1-6, 10-14 and 24 above[1].

By this paper, claims 1, 6-9 and 19-23 have been amended, claims 14-18 and 24 have been cancelled and new claims 26-27 have been added, such that claims 1-13, 19-23 and 25-27 remain pending, of which claims 1 and 10 are the independent claims at issue.[2]

Claim 1 is generally directed to a method in which a proxy server acts as an agent for a wireless device so as to preserve the limited bandwidth of the wireless network over which they communicate and to limit the processing and storage requirements of the wireless device. As recited, the method includes having the proxy server determine that a service is to be provided to a wireless device. Thereafter, the proxy server identifies and communicates with an application that is configured to provide the service. As noted, the application is remote from both the wireless device and the proxy server. The proxy server then compiles and subsequently translates and transmits the results of the communication with the application to the wireless device over the limited bandwidth wireless network. It will be appreciated that in this manner, the wireless device is spared having to interface directly with the identified remote application over the limited bandwidth wireless network. This also enables the wireless device to obtain services related to generic applications on the wireless device that the generic applications are not capable of providing.

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[1] Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

[2] Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found throughout the specification, including, but not limited to pages 3, 8 and 17-20.

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The primary reference that is used to reject the claims, Barrett, is generally directed to a method and system for establishing and facilitating intermediate data caching so that processed/stored information can be shared, thereby obviating redundant processing. (Abstract; Col. 1, ll. 9-12).

As disclosed in Barrett, a response for a client request can require numerous intermediate steps. (Col. 2, ll. 3-4). It is also disclosed that "it is desirable to re-use the output of these intermediate steps, because many requests (from different clients) will likely contain steps in common and, because the overhead of regenerating like output can be avoided by providing a caching mechanism. Likewise, a given client may make a request for the same resource that was requested in the recent past." (Col. 2, ll. 5-11).

Appropriately, Barrett teaches of methods for caching data so that computations and processing does not have to be repeated when unnecessary, particularly in the domain of transcoding data from the Web. Col. 2, ll. 40-46.

Barrett does not, however, disclose or suggest a method for causing a proxy server to act as an agent for a wireless device so as to preserve the limited bandwidth of the wireless network over which they communicate. In particular, Barrett fails to disclose or suggest any method in which a proxy server determines that a service is to be provided to a wireless device and thereafter identifies and communicates with one or more remote applications that provide that service. Instead, Barrett merely teaches that transcoding modules are used to translate data from one format to another format. (Col. 1, ll. 47-67; Col. 2, ll. 47-58). In particular, rather than identifying and using applications to generate data to provide a service, Barrett merely takes known data and transcodes it from one format to another format. (Col. 2, ll. 47-58).

The presently claimed embodiments also recite the act of transcoding or translating content from one format into another format that can be interpreted. However, in the present invention, the content is translated into a generic format that can be interpreted by the generic application stored at the wireless device. It should also be noted that this translation only occurs after (1) the expert proxy server computer system determines that a service is to be provided to the wireless device corresponding to a generic application stored on the wireless device; after (2) the expert proxy server identifies an application that can provide the service and that is remote from the wireless device and remote from the proxy server; and after (3) the expert proxy server

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communicates with the identified application that provides the service and first compiles the results of the communication with the remotely located application.

In this regard, it will be noted that even if Barrett did teach, *arguendo*, that the client is a wireless device and that the transcoding backbone is essentially a proxy server that satisfies client transcoding requests, Barrett clearly fails to identify an application that is both remote from the client and that is remote from the proxy server (which the Examiner has analogized with the transcoding backbone) and that can provide the requested service. Barrett also fails to teach that the translating/transcoding only occurs after the proxy server communicates with the remote application and compiles the results of the communications.

Instead, the transcoding provided by Barrett is provided at the transcoding backbone (analogized by the Examiner with the proxy server), such that the transcoding modules or applications are not remote from the proxy server/transcoding backbone. Furthermore, Barrett also fails to teach that the translating occurs only after first compiling/transcoding the communications from the remote application. Instead, the transcoding recited in Barrett is the translation. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Barrett fails to teach or suggest the various recited claim elements that must occur prior to translating the communications from a remote application into a generic format that can be interpreted by the generic application stored at the wireless device.

Accordingly, even though the Examiner argues that Barrett includes the use of wireless devices, the wireless devices referred to in Barrett are smart wireless devices "having a suite of internet tools including a web browser, such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer, that has a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) and support for application plug-ins or helper applications." (Col. 11, 29-38). This is to be contrasted with the wireless devices of the present invention in which the claimed wireless devices only have generic applications corresponding to the services that the remote application will provide and that are not capable of implementing the implementations of tasks that are necessary to provide the requested services, as claimed.

One benefit of the present invention, is that it enables an essentially dumb wireless device to obtain services through remote applications for which the wireless device only has corresponding dumbed down applications that cannot provide the desired services. This is beneficial because it does not require the wireless device to store the entire suite of tools or helper applications (as suggested in Barrett) that would otherwise be necessary to provide the

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requested service. It can also reduce the amount of communications required by the wireless device to obtain the service from remote systems over a limited bandwidth network. These things are neither taught nor suggested by Barrett. In fact, Barrett does not even address the problems that can exist with a server servicing wireless devices over a wireless network, as claimed, let alone a solution to those problems.
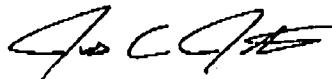
In view of the newly presented claims, Barrett also fails to suggest or disclose that the requested service is provided to the wireless device without first receiving a request for the service from the wireless device (Claim 26), or that the expert proxy server determines that the service should be provided to the wireless device in response to a request from a third party (Claim 27).

The other cited art, Fox, also fails to disclose or suggest the foregoing and, therefore, also fails to anticipate or obviate the claimed invention, either singly or in combination with Barrett.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for prompt allowance. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this _10_ day of November 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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